

REMARKS

This amendment is offered in response to the Office Action of September 14, 2001.

The Examiner has provisionally rejected Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as claiming the same invention (i.e., statutory double patenting) as Claim 6 of U.S. patent application serial no. 09/631,179. Similarly, the Examiner has provisionally rejected Claims 7 and 8 under the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting with respect to Claim 6 of U.S. patent application serial no. 09/631,179.

However, it is respectfully submitted that the amendment to Claim 6 herein overcomes the statutory double patenting rejection. Similarly, this amendment overcomes the obviousness-type double patenting rejection with respect to Claims 7 and 8. Furthermore, the Applicant will consider a terminal disclaimer, if necessary, to overcome any obviousness type double patenting rejections that remain.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by the Laguerre reference (U.S. Patent No. 3,701,192) or the Hugues reference (U.S. Patent No. 4,581,006). Similarly, the Examiner has rejected Claims 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over the Stolmeier reference

(U.S. Patent No. 5,564,259) in view of the Thieman reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,956,924) or the Laguerre reference (U.S. Patent No. 3,701,192).

However, the Thieman reference discloses the application of a slider to a zipper film, which is then converted into a bag and vertically filled (see Figure 5). This is quite different from the presently claimed invention which recites "providing a supply of a series of concatenated packages, each of said packages having a reclosable zipper" and "for each of said packages, removing a slider from said slider supply and inserting said slider on to said reclosable zipper". There is likewise nothing in the Laguerre, Hugues or Stolmeier references which would suggest providing a series of concatenated packages, and for each of the packages, performing the removing and inserting steps as recited in the claims.

For all of the reasons above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are in immediate condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested

to withdraw his rejections of the claims, to allow the claims,
and to pass this application to early issue.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald E. Brown", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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APPENDIX

Please amend Claim 6 as follows:

6. (amended) A method of making packages having slide zippers, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a supply of a series of concatenated packages, each of said packages having a reclosable zipper;

providing a supply of sliders, each of said sliders being insertable on to said reclosable zipper and adapted to open and close said reclosable zipper as said slider is moved along said reclosable zipper in opening and closing directions, respectively; and

for each of said packages, removing a slider from said slider supply and inserting said slider on to said reclosable zipper.